



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE  
President's Cancer Panel

January 15, 1980

Dr. Mathilde Krim  
Associate Member  
Co-Head, Interferon Evaluation Program  
Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research  
1275 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mathilde:

Believe it or not, this is a reply to your letter of August 16th asking for my participation in efforts to optimize interferon research. I am afraid that your letter caught me in a rather awkward situation: namely that I knew that I had been nominated for the chair of the President's Cancer Panel but was not free to discuss it while the matter was being processed through White House channels. At that time I had no reason to anticipate that it would be another four months before that process would be completed and I am sorry that I have had to remain in limbo during the interval.

I will, of course, be most attentive to the exciting prospects for the application of interferon during my work on the Panel and with the NCAB of the National Cancer Institute. I still have a great deal to learn before I can express categorical views; but I would tend to agree that nothing might be more damaging to the ultimate assessment and potential success than the use of grossly impure materials in clinical trials. I have already been able to attend some preliminary discussions that touched on this point and I believe there is now considerable sympathy for this point of view although as you well know there are strong pressures in opposing directions.

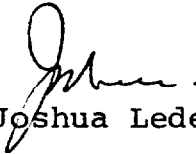
I hope that during the next few months I might have the occasion to meet with you at some length, to get your own views on the general strategies of the cancer research program about which I have a great deal to learn.

Dr. Mathilde Krim  
January 15, 1980

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It has been very long since we have had an opportunity for such a discussion but we have so many mutual friends and colleagues that I venture to offer best personal wishes.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg